

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
Dietrich Butte Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation Plan
#DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2015-0024-DNA
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office
Twin Falls District
Shoshone Field Office

FIRE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fire Name	Dietrich Butte
Fire Number	JV6H
District/Field Office	Twin Falls/Shoshone
Admin Number	LLIDT03000
State	Idaho
County(s)	Lincoln
Ignition Date/Cause	7/3/2015
Date Contained	7/4/2015

Jurisdiction	Acres
BLM	2,436
<i>State</i>	1
<i>Private</i>	0
<i>Other (Historic Waters)</i>	0

Total Acres	2,437
Total Costs	\$207,000
Costs to LF2000000	\$187,000
Costs to LF3200000	\$20,000

A. BLM Office: Shoshone Field Office **Lease/Serial/Case File No.**

Proposed Action Title/Type: Dietrich Emergency Stabilization (ES) and Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR) Plan

Location of Proposed Action:

Meridian	Township	Range	Affected Sections
Boise	T5S	R19E	Various

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is to implement the Dietrich Butte ES and BAR plan as prescribed by the Twin Falls District Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (PESRP) as outlined in the Dietrich Butte ES and BAR plan. The proposed action entails 2,436 acres of vegetation treatment including 770 acres of drill seeding, ground detection and noxious weeds control on 2,436 acres utilizing herbicides and bio-control, 1,218 acres of aerial sagebrush and forb seeding, 5 miles of existing fence repair, 4 miles of temporary protection fence, a livestock grazing closure, and monitoring (See attached Dietrich Butte ES and BAR plan).

Applicant (if any): N/A

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans.

The applicable land use plan for the BAR project is the 1985 Monument Resource Management Plan.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions.

Monument Resource Management Plan, 1985

The Monument RMP states that lands administered by the BLM in this area will be managed in order to:

1. Maintain or improve wildlife habitat for crucial mule deer winter range;
2. Improve poor or fair condition rangeland;
3. Maintain, improve, protect, and restore watershed conditions; and
4. Control the spread of noxious weeds on public lands and eradicate them where possible and economically feasible.

C. Identify applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

The proposed action is addressed in the following NEPA documents.

1. Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM lands in the 17 Western States Programmatic EIS. September 29, 2007.
2. Shoshone District EA for Noxious Weed Control (EA# ID-050-EA-92031), 1992.
3. Twin Falls District Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (PESRP) (DOI-BLM-ID-T000-2011-0001-EA). October 31, 2013.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard's assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

1. Biological Assessment for the Twin Falls District PESRP and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Concurrence, #01EIFW00-2013-I-0204.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes, the proposed action is a feature of the proposed actions outlined in the 2013 PESRP.

Documentation of answer and explanation: An interdisciplinary resource team review of this fire has revealed that the resource values, concerns, stabilization and rehabilitation needs are essentially the same as those analyzed in the 2013 PESRP and best meet the wildlife, watershed, and soil objectives in the Monument RMP. The primary purpose of the ES and BAR plan is to stabilize soils from erosion impacts by assuring that the pre-existing native plants and proposed seeded plants are protected from grazing use, and allowed to recover, maximize growth, and provide a source of live and litter ground cover for the protection of the soil resource.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values, and circumstances?

Yes, the range of alternatives in the existing NEPA documents is appropriate considering the current proposed action.

Documentation of answer and explanation: The range of alternatives analyzed in the PESRP EA is appropriate with respect to the ES and BAR activities. Two alternatives to the proposed action were analyzed in the PESRP EA. They included an alternative action that would not implement ES and BAR treatments, but was eliminated from detailed analysis because it was not consistent with BLM policy, and the No Action Alternative which would have continued to use the existing NFRPs. The current proposals follow the PESRP proposed action with the overall objective of stabilizing and rehabilitating the burned area to its previous native and/or seeded condition in the shortest time frame to

enhance and protect the watershed, soil, wildlife habitat, and livestock forage values of the area.

3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (Such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new the proposed action?

Yes, the existing analysis is still valid.

Documentation of answer and explanation: The PESRP was approved on October 31, 2013. No new information that would change the proposed action or invalidate the analysis contained in the PESRP has been identified. During the interdisciplinary review, team members consulted the most recent list of Threatened and Endangered species (August 11, 2014) and BLM sensitive species for the Shoshone Field Office.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from the ES and BAR project are similar to those analyzed in the 2013 PESRP EA.

Documentation of answer and explanation: The proposed action would result primarily in impacts to soils and vegetation. These impacts were considered in the PESRP on pages 78-82 and 87-96. With native vegetation recovery the area susceptible to wind erosion would be reduced.

The PESRP adequately analyzed the actions proposed in the ES and BAR plan and it is anticipated that the cumulative impacts of the actions are not substantially different as analyzed in the PESRP. Therefore, there will not be any additional cumulative effects to consider under the plan.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, the public involvement and interagency review of the PESRP is adequate for the current proposed actions.

Documentation of answer and explanation: Scoping letters informing the public of the purpose and need for action were sent to interested publics including organizations, and federal and state agencies beginning in March of 2007. The public and other agencies included interest from ranchers, academia, conservation groups, the Tribes, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and ESA consultation with the USFWS.

The ES and BAR plan along with the Decision Record would be posted on the BLM E-planning NEPA website and is available upon request.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.

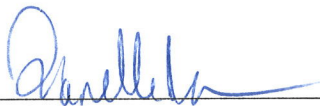
Name	Title	Resource Represented
Danelle Nance	Natural Resource Specialist	Fuels
Joe Russell	Fire Ecologist	Fuels
Scott Uhrig	Fire Rehabilitation Specialist	Operations
Dan Patten	Range Management Specialist	Range
Lisa Cresswell	Archaeologist/NEPA Coordinator	Cultural/NEPA
Gary Wright	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Cassandra Mavencamp	Geographic Information Specialist	GIS

F. Mitigation Measures:

The burned areas will be managed to keep livestock from grazing until seeding and natural recovery objectives are met. The seed treatment areas will be monitored and managed to keep livestock from grazing for a minimum of two grazing seasons to allow for recovery and maximum production of the newly seeded plants. Burn areas not drill seeded will be monitored for natural recovery prior to allowing resumption of livestock grazing. Cultural resource inventories will be completed prior to ground disturbing (drill seeding and protection fence construction) to avoid any potential adverse effects to significant cultural sites.

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the Monument RMP and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLMs compliance with the requirements of NEPA.



Danelle Nance
Project Lead

8-5-2015

Date



Lisa Cresswell
NEPA Coordinator

8/10/2015

Date



Codie Martin
Shoshone Field Office Manager

8/5/15

Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.